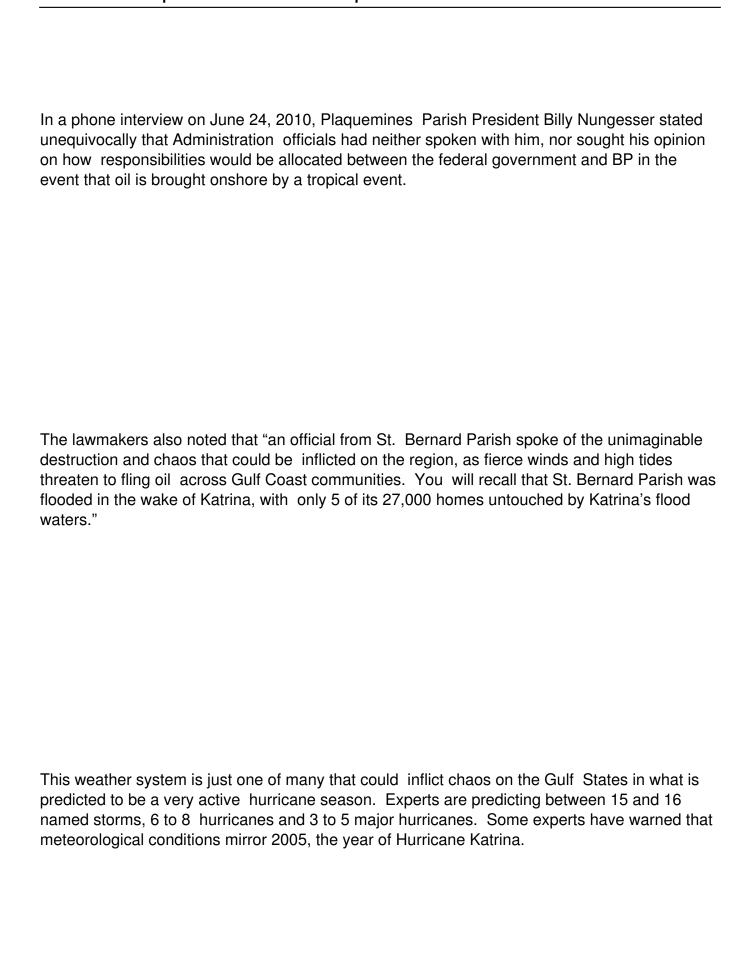
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Readiness to	Respond to	Hurricanes	and Tropic	al Storms

WASHINGTON. D.C. – House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao (R-LA) sent a letter today

to the panels' Chairman Edolphus "Ed" Towns (D-NY) highlighting "new concerns brought to the attention of Committee staff during a recent visit to the Gulf area" and requesting that he broaden the scope of the Committee's investigation to examine "how the federal government plans to handle the unique challenges this disaster faced with the backdrop of the 2010 hurricane season."

"The formation of Tropical Storm Alex off the coast of Cuba should focus our attention on how hurricanes could severely complicate efforts to fight the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico," they wrote. "During our visit to New Orleans, staff members from both the Majority and Minority heard first hand the concerns of local officials over whether the Administration is prepared to respond to the unique challenges of the 2010 hurricane season. Local officials are worried that a tropical event will complicate clean up efforts while oil is still in the Gulf. In addition to environmental damage, these leaders foresee a bureaucratic showdown between BP and the federal government over who is responsible for clean up and removal of oil soaked debris."



They concluded, "As this Committee is charged with overseeing the effectiveness and adequacy of federal operations, it is our obligation to ensure the federal response to the worst environmental disaster in our history is adequate and comprehensive. The Administration has a narrow window of opportunity to be proactive in its response and immediate leadership in this area is critical."

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